13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

The kidney bean was known and grown by the Island Caribs under its aboriginal name. Although still grown today Caribs believe that the species must not be handled by hunter or fisherman (as this would spoil his catch), nor can plants be given to domestic animals (e. g. pigs) as this would cause them to become vicious.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Pithecellobium jupunba (Willdenow) Urban, Symb. Ant. 2: 257. 1900.

Pithecellobium trapezifolium Bentham, Hook. Journ. Bot. 2: 142. 1840.

Pithecellobium micradenium Bentham, Hook. Lond. Journ. 3: 217. 1844.

Bois Ciceron, (Bois) Pipiri, Bois Savonette [18]. — *aluifua, saruhifua* (« white-flecked »?).

A common tree of moist forests at middle elevations in the Lesser Antilles from Guadeloupe to Trinidad, and in northern South America from Colombia to Brazil.

Caribs utilize the wood of bois ciceron for boards. A decoction of the bark is drunk for dysentery while pounded bits of bark are sometimes employed as a substitute fish poison. When rubbed in water the leaflets emit a lather which is used as a soap.

Specimen citation: 3137, 3412.

SIMAROUBACEAE. QUASSIA FAMILY.

Picramnia pentandra Swartz, Fl. Ind. Occ. 220. 1797.

Picramnia antidesmoides Griesbach, Fl. Br. W. I. 141. 1859. Bitter-Bush (8). — Tan, Bois Tan [19].

---

[18] The name bois savonette is seldom used on the island for *Pithecellobium*, and in the Carib Reserve by only a few of the Indians. Species of *Lonchocarpus* or *Sapindus* more frequently go under this appelation. *Pithecellobium* has probably received this name through transfer since the genus is the source of a fish poison, used as a substitute for that obtained from species of *Lonchocarpus*.

[19] Not to be confused with another tree also called bois tan (*Byrsonima spicata*).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Caribs eat the fruits of the monben and formerly used them to prepare a fermented drink. The fruits are also believed to induce lactation but it is uncertain how they are employed. Inflamed or swollen joints are claimed to be cured by exposing them to the fumes of the burning kernels of monben fruits. A tea used to treat sore throat is made from either the leaves or seeds. Momben leaves are one ingredient in a special purging tea given after parturition (see *Jatropha* spp.), as well as in another tea used to induce lactation in women (see *Annona muricata*).

SAPINDACEAE. Soapberry Family.

Cardiospermum halicacabum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 366. 1753.
Batard Persil.

An herbaceous climbing vine growing in tropical regions throughout the world.

The leaves of batard persil are crushed in water by the Caribs to make what is said to be a refreshing and cooling drink.

Specimen citation: 3289.

Sapindus saponaria Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 367. 1753.
Sapindus inaequalis DeCandolle, Prodr. 1: 608. 1824.
Soapberry, Soap Tree. — Bois Savonette[37]. — *tilisi* (m), *lilaru* (w).

A tree of lower elevations found in the West Indies and in continental tropical America.

The fruits of the soapberry may be used for washing purposes, and in various parts of the Antilles the seeds are strung to make necklaces.

Dominica's Caribs employ the bark («scales») of *Sapindus saponaria* for soap while a concentrated decoction of the bark is reputed to stop dysentery.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

---

[37] Not to be confused with two other Dominica trees, *Louchocarpus* sp., and *Pithecellobium jupunba*, also called bois savonette.

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824^A

crude singlepost presses for sugarcane, house-piles, forked posts for *ouréas* (primitive type native dwelling), etc. Bay leaves and fruits are used in a tea drunk as a cure for colic and stomach ache, or in a shampoo for washing the hair or body. In more recent years the leaves have been sold to merchants of the island for distillation of the essential oil.

[278 388 437]

Specimen citation: 491, 492, 3220.

Myrcia citrifolia (Aublet) Urban, Fedde Repert. 16: 150. 1919.
Myrcia coriacea DeCandolle, Prodr. 3: 243. 1828.
Couroupoume. — Kurupum. — *iandue, táka-táka.*

This usually shrubby tree is known from Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Lesser Antilles. On Dominica it is most frequent at lower elevations along the windward coast.

The wood is resistent to insects and so is used occasionally on the islands in house building.

The small edible fruits, prepared in a special tea (see *Annona muricata*) are used by the Carib women to induce lactation, while the leaves — along with those of fleurs la fête de Dieu (*Petrea kohautiana*), chou froidure (*Xanthosoma* sp.), and du thé pays (*Capraria biflora*) — are boiled up to make a tea used to combat diarrhea.

[853 278]

Specimen citation: 10 (T), 3253, 3324.

Psidium guajava Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 470. 1753.
Psidium guava Griesbach, Fl. Br. W. I. 241. 1860.
Guava. — Gouyave, Goyave. — *balíkasi, kwídbu* (white variety); *balíbui* (m), *saliápa* (w) (red variety).

The guava is widely planted for its fruit in tropical and subtropical regions where it often is a pioneer weedy tree on open abandoned clearings. It is a native of the West Indies and continental tropical America. In Dominica it occurs on open slopes at lower and middle elevations.

The fruit is edible, while an infusion of the bark, root, and leaves is given by the Caribs to those suffering from diarrhea or intestinal chill.

[262 278]

Specimen citation: 4 (T), 496, 3350.